

AREA TRAINING PROGRAM
PHILOSOPHY AND AIMS

Need: In order for CIA to carry out its mission effectively, it is essential that CIA personnel concerned with a foreign country or area have a sound knowledge of the country or area -- geography, economy, and political situation -- and its people -- history, culture, and institutions. Although such knowledge is already possessed, at least in part, by many personnel or may be acquired individually, it is often too narrowly specialized and too lacking in perspective to enable personnel to perform their duties properly in relation to other activities in the same and in associated areas. A deficiency in area training is one of the items noted in the Clark Committee report. A need therefore exists, for both the specialist in and the newcomer to area activities, for a systematic survey of the general background and the situation in relation to other areas and to national policy of each major country or region with which the CIA intelligence mission is concerned.

Objectives: The Language and External Training School (LETS) seeks, therefore, to develop a series of area training courses available to all Agency personnel. These courses will concentrate on promoting a clearer understanding of foreign areas and a keener sensitivity to elements within them which are professionally significant to an intelligence officer. In addition to the general approach, attention will be given to the specialized needs of members of the three major Agency components; emphasis throughout will be on the area in relation to intelligence.

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Courses: The series of courses proposed is organized in the following categories:

The Basic Country Survey -- a course on each major country and on each grouping of ten or more minor countries.

The Regional Survey -- a course on each world region or broad grouping of countries.

The Current Problems Seminar -- a discussion of intelligence problems centering on a particular country or region.

Americans Abroad -- a course on each major country and appropriate grouping of countries.

The Omnibus Program -- comprehensive training, including language, on an individual country or appropriate grouping of countries.

Groupings will be announced at a later date. Model syllabi of each category of courses are attached.

Staff: In order to make the new area training program as efficient as possible, it will be closely correlated with language training and will be administered by a staff with competency in both fields. Existing language training will be coordinated with the area program under three regional groupings: Western, Slavic, and Oriental. In addition, experienced personnel from the entire intelligence community, as well as outside specialists, will contribute to the instruction and lead discussions of area considerations affecting their respective missions.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
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<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> ACTION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> RETURN</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> FILE</div> </div> <p>Remarks: <i>Attached for your info, is our rewrite of the "Aims & Philosophy" section of the Area Training Program papers. As you will recall you didn't like the LETS version - we didn't</i></p>			

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